

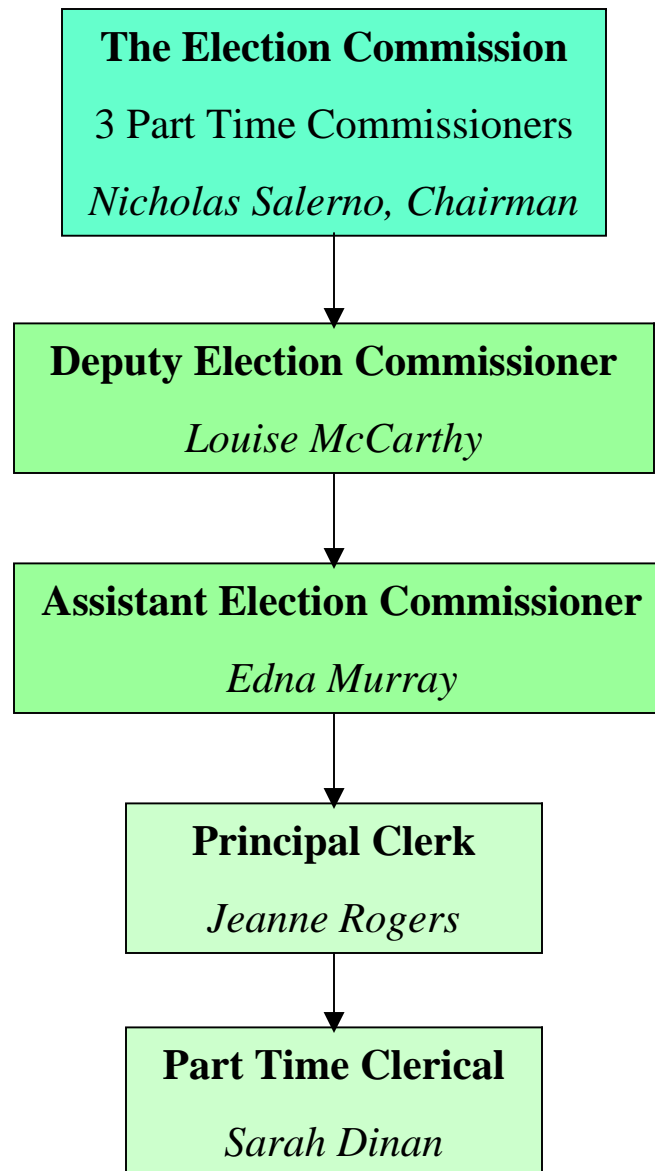
FY08 SOMERVILLE BUDGET HEARINGS

Election Department

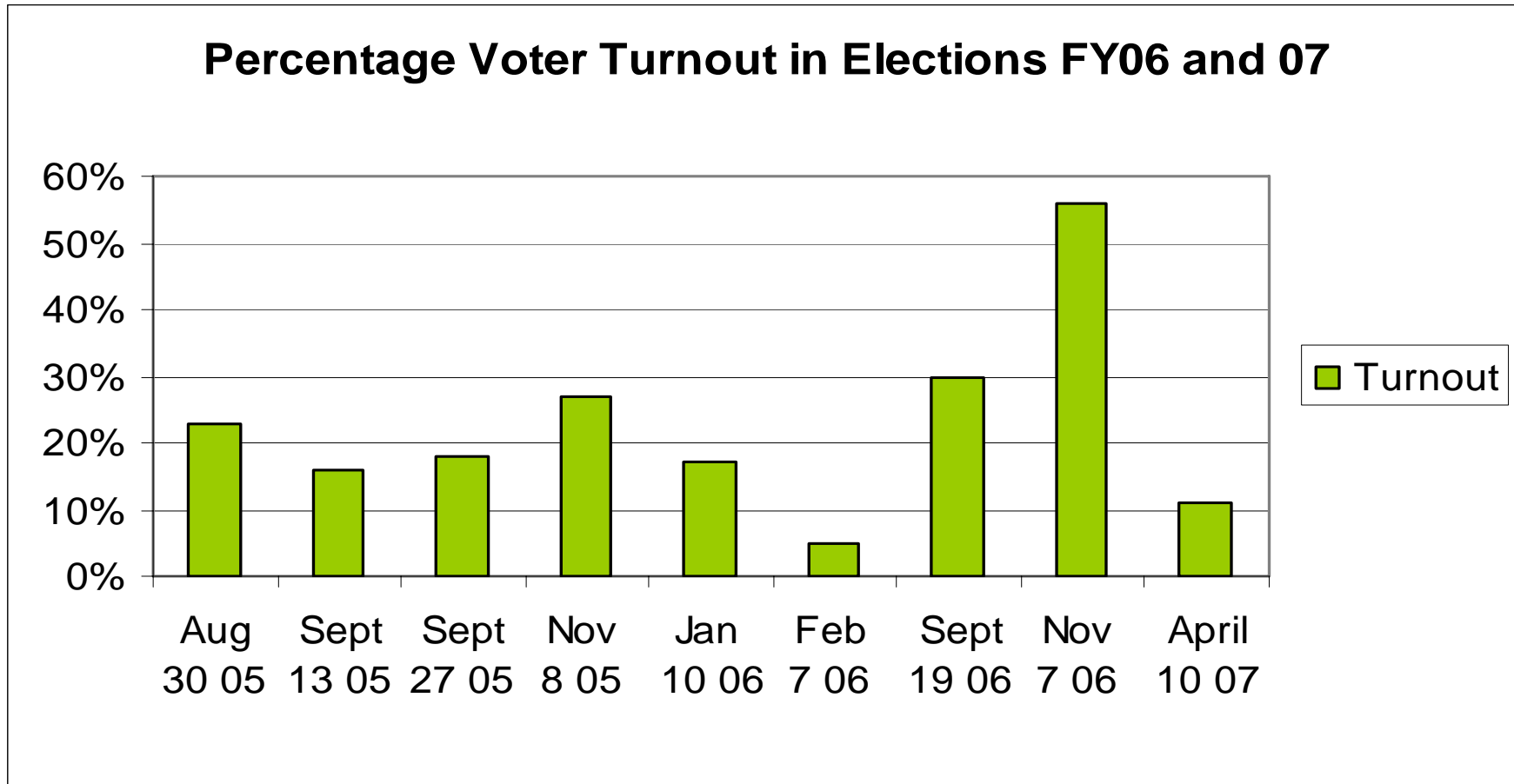
Nicholas Salerno, Chairman



2. ELECTIONS Organizational Chart



3. ELECTIONS – FY06 vs. FY07 Activity Data



Each year Elections sends out 40,000 census forms; received back 16,797 forms and 3,594 follow-up postcards in FY06. So far in FY07, we have received 13,907 census forms back and have not yet sent out the follow-up postcards.

4. ELECTIONS – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

1. Poll worker training was intensified. In order to comply with the Help America Vote Act, training sessions on new procedures were held for wardens, clerks, and inspectors. The poll workers were pleased with the training and performed well on Election Days.
2. The Help America Vote Act mandates a handicapped-accessible voting machine in each precinct by the state elections. We intend to meet that goal early by using the machines in the two special elections coming in April and May of 2007. Poll worker training in the use of the handicap machines is scheduled for the end of March.

5. ELECTIONS – FY07 Accomplishments & Initiatives

3. The 2007 City Census is still in progress. We believe we will reach our goal of increasing census response above 50 percent because of all our efforts, including:
 - o Mailing the census out earlier than usual.
 - o Surveying other communities about how they conduct their census and incorporating new ideas.
 - o Making more effective use of publicity by improving the census section of the web page, including a census form to download. The census was also publicized on cable television. In addition, the Department spoke with representatives of groups that are comprised of non-English speaking residents to encourage them to complete their census forms.
 - o Attending community sponsored activities with materials to increase voter registration and census filings.

6. ELECTIONS – FY08 Goals

1. In FY08 the Election Department intends to continue its publicity campaign to increase census response above 50 percent. This is a challenging goal and one that Elections works on every year.
2. The Help America Vote Act has placed additional technical duties and procedures upon poll workers, such as identification requirements and provisional balloting, with different forms for different situations.
3. We will have our handicap voting machines in place for the fall elections. Poll workers will need to become familiar with these machines. Therefore, the Department will continue to intensify recruiting efforts and training for poll workers. It is our goal to ensure exceptional performance and compliance during all election periods.

7. ELECTIONS – FY08 Goals

4. Also in FY08 we plan to begin replacing voting booths in certain polling locations due to the age and inferior condition of our current voting booths.
5. The Elections Department anticipates a high number of new voter registrations and absentee ballots in FY08 because of the upcoming presidential primary; in other presidential years, it has seen a significant increase in activity in those areas.

8. Increases/Decreases FY07 vs. FY08

Account	Purpose	Increase/Decrease	Amount
Capital	12 New Voting Booths	Increase	\$9,000.00

9. ACE Service Project

ACE Service Project: Accurate, Courteous, Easy Service from your City government.

“The mission of this project is to respond accurately and efficiently to constituent needs, while treating each customer with courtesy and respect, and constantly improving the ease of doing business with city government.” ~Mayor Joseph Curtatone, 2007 Midterm Address

The Election Commission strives to meet the ACE goals by:

- Continuing to publicize elections and census deadlines across the city. (ongoing)
- Intensifying poll-worker training to comply with the Help America Vote Act. (ongoing)
- Acquiring and implementing new handicap-accessible voting booths and machines. (FY07)
- Replacing old, unsafe voting booths city-wide. (FY08-09)